



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 13, 1998

Dear Friend:

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Microenterprise Development help our nation celebrate the energy, creativity, and vitality of Americans who have the courage to pursue their dreams. Administered by the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund of the Department of the Treasury, the awards recognize those organizations that have demonstrated excellence and leadership in enabling people to build their own businesses.

Last year, we honored seven outstanding organizations for their success in helping low-income and disadvantaged Americans, minorities, and women to realize their dream of entrepreneurship. Among the award winners was the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center, which enabled Rosalie Crowe, a registered nurse, to establish her own in-home aide service agency to provide care for homebound elderly citizens and people with disabilities. Another award winner was the Women's Self Employment Project, which helped Veronica Omiyale of Chicago start her own business after she was laid off from her job. Now Ms. Omiyale's Global Bee Trading provides a critical source of support for her family.

These are just two of the many success stories that microenterprise is creating across America. Touching the lives of those who are often left out of the economic mainstream, microenterprise helps put people on their feet and gives them the opportunity, skills, and encouragement to fulfill their potential. By empowering hardworking Americans to build better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities, microenterprise enriches us all.

I thank you for continuing to support the critical work of microenterprise development across the country, and I encourage you to participate in the 1998 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Microenterprise Development.

Sincerely,

*Bill Clinton*